

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 /045 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:WBCOBB:LLL

APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES

CAB - MR. MURPHY

AF/W - MR. WALKER

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R 072119Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, GH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: REQUEST FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

REF: ACCRA 4832

1. GIVEN GOG ACCEPTANCE OF AN EARLIER PROPOSAL TO LEAVE GHANA ROUTE TO US UNDEFINED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MARKET GROWTH JUSTIFIES SERVICE TO THE U.S. BY A GHANA AIRLINE, WE APPARENTLY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ADHERE TO OUR FORMAL POSITION AND TO RESPOND IN A POSITIVE MANNER TO THE GOG NOTE OF JULY 26, DESPITE OUR CONVICTION THAT MERGER OF GHANA AIRWAYS WITH ANOTHER REGIONAL CARRIER WOULD PROVIDE SOUNDER LONG RUN BASIS FOR OPERATIONS TO THE U.S.

2. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH GHANA AIRWAYS DIRECTOR BEN-JAMIN NTIM, PRESENTLY IN THE U.S. ON A LEADER GRANT, WHO SOUGHT APPOINTMENTS IN DEPT. AND WITH CAB TO DISCUSS AVIATION DEVELOPMENTS, INDICATE THAT GHANA AIRWAYS HAS NO PRESENT PLANS FOR REGULAR SERVICE TO THE U.S. BUT WOULD  
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LIKE TO OFFER OCCASSIONAL CHARTER FLIGHTS. NTIM WAS

MOST NEGATIVE TOWARD MERGER POSSIBILITY WITH AIR AFRIQUE. DEPT. AND CAB OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT BOARD COULD PERMIT MAXIMUM 6 CHARTER FLIGHTS ANNUALLY WITHOUT ISSUANCE OF FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT, THAT ADDITIONAL CHARTERS COULD BE OFFERED IF GHANA AIRWAYS SECURES CHARTER AUTHORITY

PERMIT UNDER SECTION 402 OF FEDERAL AVIATION ACT, AND THAT IF LEVEL REGULAR SCHEDULED TRAFFIC SEEMED TO JUSTIFY A BLOCKED SPACE ARRANGEMENT WITH PAN AMERICAN, THIS WOULD BE LOGICAL NEXT STEP IN DEVELOPMENT AIR TRAFFIC BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

3. IN VIEW ABOVE, REQUEST EMBASSY RESPOND TO NOTE OF JULY 26, 1973, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

... AND WITH REFERENCE TO THE NOTE OF JULY 26, 1973, REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOG OF THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE USG IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE 137 OF SEPTEMBER 27, 1971, AND THE SUGGESTION THAT SEPTEMBER 4, 1973 MIGHT BE SET AS THE DATE FOR THE INAUGURATION OF NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TO THE CONCLUSION OF A BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, HAS THE HONOR TO ADVISE THAT THE DATE SUGGESTED IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT CONVENIENT TO THE USG SINCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET FOR THAT DATE.

THE USG SUGGESTS THAT IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH SIDES TO DEFER SETTING A DATE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A GHANEAN AIR CARRIER MAY BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICE FROM GHANA TO THE UNITED STATES. UNTIL THAT TIME, A GHANEAN AIRLINE COULD AVAIL ITSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY UNDER U.S. REGULATIONS TO OPERATE A LIMITED NUMBER CHARTER FLIGHTS (MAXIMUM 6 FLIGHTS PER ANNUM) TO OR FROM THE U.S. SHOULD MARKET EXPERIENCE INDICATE THAT A GREATER LEVEL OF CHARTER ACTIVITY MIGHT BE WARRANTED IT WOULD THEN BE POSSIBLE FOR A GHANEAN CARRIER TO APPLY FOR A REGULAR CHARTER PERMIT UNDER SECTION 402 OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ACT. AT THE SAME TIME OR SUBSEQUENTLY, SHOULD THE GHANEAN CARRIER WISH TO DEVELOP A MARKET FOR SCHEDULED SERVICE IT COULD

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EXPLORE WITH A UNITED STATES CARRIER THE POSSIBILITIES FOR AGREEMENT ON A BLOCKED SPACE ARRANGEMENT DESIGNED TO FULFILL THIS NEED. EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES MARKET GAINED IN THIS MANNER WOULD NO DOUBT PROVE USEFUL TO A GHANEAN CARRIER SEEKING TO OPERATE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT.

THE EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONVEY TO THE USG THE

VIEWS OF THE GOG TO THIS SUGGESTION REGARDING POSSIBLE  
OPERATIONS PRIOR TO THE INITIATION OF THE BILATERAL AIR  
TRANSPORT NEGOTIATIONS.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE - ROGERS

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